

REMARKS

After entry of the present amendment, claims 2-8 will be pending in this application. New claims 2-8 are identical to issued claims 1-7 in U.S. Patent No. 6,753,423, respectively, except with the addition of the phrase “in need of hepatic gene modulation” in claims 2, 3 and 4. (The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,753,453). The new claims are fully supported by the specification at, for example, page 17, lines 33-35, which states:

In general, for therapeutics, a patient in need of such therapy is administered an oligonucleotide in accordance with the present invention. . .

Moreover, the referenced “therapy” is achieved via modulating a hepatic gene. For example, the specification discloses at page 6, lines 12-16, that:

It is a particular object of this invention to provide compositions for and methods for targeting antisense oligonucleotides to hepatic tissues and thereby preferentially modulating gene expression in the liver. . .


Thus, the new claims which recite the phrase “in need of hepatic gene modulation” are fully supported by the specification. Claim 1 has been canceled. This amendment is made without prejudice to Applicants’ right to pursue the canceled subject matter in a continuing application. No new matter has been added.

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PATENT

In view of the foregoing, Applicants assert that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and an early Office Action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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